THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government is contemplating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission" in the country to enhance the production of wheat, rice and pulses during XI Five Year Plan. Besides, a proposal for introduction of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) scheme to State plans to be administered by the Ministry of Agriculture over and above its existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under consideration of the Government to increase growth in agriculture in the country.

Promotion of Vermi Compost and Bio-fertilizers

†7. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of wastes from urban and rural areas of the country being used for preparing vermi compost and other bio-fertilizers;

(b) whether the wastes from the urban and rural areas of the State of Uttarakhand are also being used for preparing vermi compost and other bio-fertilizers, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government so far to encourage it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Authentic data is not available on percentage of wastes from urban and rural areas of the country being used for preparing vermi compost. Bio-fertilizers are bacterial preparation and no waste is used for their preparation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) For encouraging compost production, composting techniques including vermi compost, NADEP compost, BD-compost, EM-compost, CPP/Bokashi, Taral Khad are being promoted under "National Project on Organic Farming", "National Horticulture Mission" & "Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand."

Sale of Spurious Fertilizers, Pesticides and Insecticides

8. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minsiter of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spurious fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides are being sold in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on agriculture produce;

(c) the number of cases that has come to light during last two years; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent production of spurious fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No cases of large scale adulteration of fertilizer, pesticides and insecticide have been reported to the Ministry. By and large good quality of fertilizers & insecticides are being sold in the country. Natural factors like untimely rains, floods,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.